Tribunals and amount involved therein;

(c) how many cases have been disposed of by the Special Recovery Tribunals and the amount involved therein;

(d) what is the percentage of amount so far disposed of in terms of total Non-Performing Advances of the Banks as a whole;

(e) the steps taken by Government to make the Tribunals effective; and

(f) what is the estimated time-frame for disposal of cases regarding all the Non-Performing Advances of the Banks by the Special Recovery Tribunals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Five Debts Recovery Tribunals at Calcutta, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Delhi and one Appellate Tribunal at Bombay have been set up so far.

(b) to (d) Information from Debts Recovery Tribunals is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) and (f) To make the Tribunals effective. it has been provided in Sub-section (8) of Section 19 of the Act itself that the applications made to the Tribunals under sub-section (1) of Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 shall be dealt with by it as expeditiously as possible and endeavour shall be made by it to dispose off the applications finally within six months from the date of receipt of the application.

Production of Coin Blanks of Salem Steel Plant

251. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Ministry are procuring orders from abroad for Coin Blanks;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the indigenous technology is available for producing Coin Blanks at Salem Steel Plant; and

(c) if so, the reasons for importing the Coin Blanks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The requirement of coin banks is met through indigenous sources as well as by importing coin blanks. Indigenous sources, inter-alia, include supply by Salem Steel Plant.

Customs Duty on Flint Buttons

252. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the customs duty of Flint Buttons has been reduced to 65 per cent from 105 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is fact that a proposal had come from Industry Ministry for restoration of customs duty of Flint Buttons;

(d) if so, the reaction of his Ministry thereto; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) As part of the broad policy of bringing down the peak rates of import duty, import duty on flint buttons was reduced from 105% to 85% in 1993 budget, and from 85% to 65% in 1994 budget.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) In view of the forthcoming budget, it is not possible to indicate the details at this stage.

Rate of Inflation

253. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the rate of inflation during the year 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(b) what is the present rate of inflation; and

(c) what steps are being taken to bring down the inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Annual inflation rate since 1990-91 is shown below:

Annual Inflation Rate (point to point)

(Percent)

Year	Inflation
1990-91	12.1
1991-92	13.6
1992-93	7.0
1993-94	10.8
1994-95*	11.4

*As on February 25, 1995.

(c) Steps taken to contain inflation in the current fiscal year are:—

(i) release of foodgrains from public stocks through open market sale by Food Corporation of India;

(ii) placing import of sugar on OGL at zero duty;

(iii) ensuring sugar availability for PDS by importing nearly 10 lakh tonnes at zero duty;

(iv) allowing import of palmolein oil under OGL;

(v) importing 1.07 lakh tonnes of palmolein oil for supply through PDS;

(vi) with effect from March 1995, allowing imports of major edible oils under OGL at reduced duty of 30%;

(vii) allowing cotton import under OGL at zero duty;

(viii) Placing a cap on Central Government's borrowings from the RBI through the issue of ad hoc Treasury Bills and containing monetary growth through a series of measures including raising of CRR and sale of Government securities by the RBI.

Excise/income tax raid conducted in Nagpur

254. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that in spite of simplification of Excise/Income Tax Rules, many traders are evading the same by adopting unfair trade practices under the nose of local authorities resulting in heavy loss of revenue to the exchequer;

(b) whether Government are also aware that M/s Agra Leatherities and M/s Luggage Home, Modi No. 3, Itabuldi, Nagpur (Maharashtra) have acquired huge assets disproportionate to their disclosed income;

(c) whether in spite of public complaints, no raid has been conducted in the case of above business house; and